

## ***Four coal miners killed in roof fall accidents in one day***

**In one day, July 15, 1997, four coal miners were killed in three roof fall accidents. Several other miners were injured as well by these accidents. These latest deaths raise the total coal mining fatalities this year to 19.**

**Southwest Virginia**—The continuous mining machine operator was remotely operating the continuous mining machine, making a pillar split on a retreat mining section. The section foreman was nearby observing, when the roof began to work. The two men ran out of the face area and into the intersection outby. The roof in the intersection fell, ***killing both men.***

**Southwest Virginia**—One cut had been taken from the face, and the continuous mining machine backed-out into the last open crosscut. Four miners were near the continuous mining machine when a large horseback fell, starting at the face and continuing outby to the location of the miners. ***Three of the miners were injured and the foreman was killed.***

**Pennsylvania**—The continuous mining machine had been advanced about 10-feet to start a crosscut. The continuous mining machine operator was operating the machine remotely, positioned near the boom of the machine. The section foreman was about 10 feet inby the continuous mining machine operator. A massive roof fall occurred without warning. ***The section foreman was killed and the continuous mining operator was injured.*** A clay vein was present in the roof fall cavity.

